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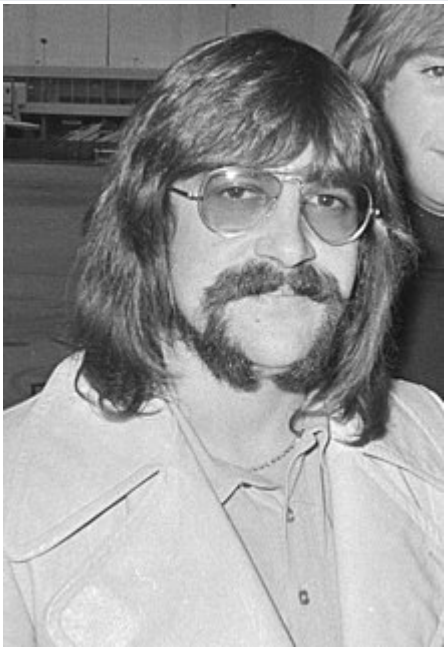
Graeme Edge

Graeme Charles Edge (30 March 1941 – 11 November 2021) was an English musician, songwriter and poet, best known as the co-founder and drummer of the English band the Moody Blues. In addition to his work with the Moody Blues, Edge worked as the bandleader of his own outfit, the Graeme Edge Band. He contributed his talents to a variety of other projects throughout his career. In 2018, Edge was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of the Moody Blues.[2]

Graeme Edge



Edge in 1970

Background information	
Birth name	Graeme Charles Edge
Born	30 March 1941 Rocester, Staffordshire, England
Died	11 November 2021 (aged 80) Bradenton, Florida, U.S.
Genres	Rock · rhythm and blues · poetry
Occupation(s)	Musician · songwriter · poet
Instrument(s)	Drums · percussion
Years active	1964–2018[1]
Labels	Decca · Threshold · Cherry Red
Website	graemeedge.com (http://graemeedge.com)

Career

The Moody Blues (1964–1966)

Born in Rocester, Staffordshire, Graeme Edge was one of the original members of the Moody Blues, alongside singer/guitarist Denny Laine, singer/bassist Clint Warwick, singer/keyboardist Mike Pinder and singer/flautist/harmonica player Ray Thomas.[3] Edge provided a foundation for the original R&B and rock-flavoured band fronted by Laine, playing on all their Decca singles, including the UK chart-topping "Go Now" (January 1965) and other 1965 hit songs: "I Don't Want to Go On Without You", "Everyday" and "From the Bottom of my Heart (I Love You)", which were additionally released in that year.

Core seven period (1966–1974)

After the departure of Laine and Clint Warwick and the later recruitment of Justin Hayward and John Lodge in 1966, the band continued initially to play the R&B-style material.

Edge became a poet for the band, contributing "Morning Glory" and "Late Lament" to *Days of Future Passed* in 1967 (narrated by Pinder). Edge himself opened *In Search of the Lost Chord* (1968) with his brief poem "Departure", though Mike Pinder narrated his "The Word" poem later on that set. Further poems provided by Edge included "In the Beginning" (co-narrated by Hayward, Edge and Pinder in turn) and

"The Dream" (spoken by Pinder) for *On the Threshold of a Dream* (1969). Edge stated in 2018 that the reason most of his poetry was recited by Pinder was that Pinder, having smoked so many cigarettes and drunk so much whisky, had the best voice for it.[4]

Later in 1969, as the band launched their own label, Threshold Records, Edge began contributing songs. His effort "Higher and Higher" (a spoken lyric over music with a dramatic 'rocket blast off' opening; as usual, it was recited by Pinder) commenced the band's fifth album *To Our Children's Children's Children*, which also featured his instrumental composition "Beyond".[5]

Edge whispered the lyrics to his song "Don't You Feel Small" over band-sung vocals (Pinder, Thomas, Lodge and Hayward) on *A Question of Balance* (1970), on which he also contributed a closing poem/song co-written with Ray Thomas, "The Balance" (recited by Pinder).

Edge co-wrote and claimed pole position as "lead grunt" on the unusual band-composed opening track "Procession" on their 1971 album *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, on which his song "After You Came" features the four lead vocalists (Thomas, Pinder, Hayward and Lodge) both together and taking brief solo lead lines in turn. Edge's song was later used as the UK B-side to the chart hit "Isn't Life Strange?" in 1972. The first electronic drum is said to have been created by Edge in collaboration with Sussex University professor Brian Groves; the device was used in the song "Procession" from *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*.[6]

For their 1972 *Seventh Sojourn* album, Edge co-wrote "You And Me" with Hayward, who took lead vocal.[7] In 2013, Edge said of *Seventh Sojourn*:

> I didn't [listen to] that album, because I was going through a divorce at the same time and so it was very, very painful for me. Once it was finished, I didn't play it for years and years and years. *Never* played it. Not that I play our stuff very much anyway, but I never ever played that one. And I hadn't really heard it apart from the [singles] from it, until [1986 when] it came out first time on CD and I had to listen to it digitalised just to sort of say "Yeah, that's fine by me." And I thought, "Well actually, that's not too bad an album!" That's the closest I'll ever be to hearing a Moodies album for the first time.[8]

Band hiatus

After the Moody Blues' world tour ended in 1974, the band members took a break, during which, between his two solo albums, Edge sailed on a round-the-world voyage with a small crew in his yacht *Delia*. He returned to recording later in 1974, forming his studio-based The Graeme Edge Band (featuring guitarist/vocalist Adrian Gurvitz and Paul Gurvitz), which first issued a non-album single, "We Like To Do it", on Threshold (TH 18) in July 1974 (this was later added to his first Graeme Edge Band album as a bonus track on the CD release).

The Graeme Edge Band released two albums in the mid-1970s. The first was *Kick Off Your Muddy Boots* in September 1975 on Threshold, a subsidiary of Decca Records, catalogue number THS 15. It was released as a gatefold with album art by Joe Petagno and featured Adrian and Paul Gurvitz, plus a guest appearance co-drumming with Edge by Ginger Baker (on "Gew Janna Woman"), and backing vocals by fellow Moody Blues member Ray Thomas. This first album reached No. 107 in the U.S. on the *Billboard* chart. Their second album was *Paradise Ballroom* in 1977 on the main Decca label and in the United States on the London Records label. The album charted in the US reaching No. 164 on *Billboard*. It was also released as a gatefold with album art by Petagno, again featuring Adrian and Paul Gurvitz. Edge also appeared as himself in the 2016 film comedy *Characterz*.

A single, "Everybody Needs Somebody" (taken from the latest album), was issued on Decca (F.13698) with the non-album B-side "Be My Eyes" in June 1977.

Band reformation (1978–2018)

Edge performing in 2018

After the Moody Blues' reunion in 1978, Edge provided "I'll Be Level with You" (sung by the group, led by Hayward) for the album *Octave* on Decca. After the album was released, Pinder declined to tour with the band and was replaced by ex-Yes keyboardist Patrick Moraz.

For *Long Distance Voyager* in 1981 Edge contributed "22,000 Days"—the length of an average human lifespan in days—sung by Thomas, Lodge and Hayward; this was also used as the UK B-side of the single "Gemini Dream".

Edge's "Going Nowhere" (sung by Ray Thomas) was his lone composition on *The Present* album in 1983, and he teamed with Moraz for "The Spirit" (sung by the group's vocalists in harmony) on *The Other Side of Life* album in 1986.

Edge was not featured as a songwriter or poet on either *Sur La Mer* (1988) or *Keys of the Kingdom* (1991) and was not drummer on every track on the latter album; however, he contributed the closing poem/song "Nothing Changes", which was initially narrated by himself and then sung by the Moody Blues (Hayward featured) on the *Strange Times* album issued in 1999.

Edge was joined onstage by Gordon Marshall as second drummer for Moody Blues concerts from 1991 to 2015 and by Billy Ashbaugh from 2016 on. In addition to drums, Edge provided varied assorted percussion instrumentation, plus additional piano to the Moody Blues' works, and featured his electronic drum kit from the early 1970s onwards on Moody Blues albums, his drumming style being recognisable and distinctive.

Edge participated in the 2011 Moody Blues bluegrass tribute album *Moody Bluegrass TWO ... Much Love*, providing the lead vocal on a bluegrass-tinged version of his poem "Higher and Higher".[9]

Edge was a fan of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. An article about him said he had "plenty of time for overseeing some rental properties, doing charity work, playing lots of golf and watching *Deep Space Nine* at his home on Florida's Gulf Coast".[10]

In 2013, Justin Hayward spoke of Edge's learning Transcendental Meditation in 1967, along with other members of the Moody Blues.[11]

Edge was the only remaining original member of the Moody Blues still performing in the band until his retirement in 2018.[12][1]

He used DW drums, Zildjian cymbals, Remo heads and Regal Tip drumsticks, namely their 5A model.

Death

Edge died of metastatic cancer at his home in Bradenton, Florida, on 11 November 2021, aged 80.[13] He had previously suffered a stroke in 2016.[14] Hayward announced that after Edge's retirement, the Moody Blues no longer existed.[15]

Compositions

The Moody Blues

- 1967: "Morning Glory" (part of "The Day Begins") from *Days of Future Passed*
- 1967: "Late Lament" (part of "Nights in White Satin") from *Days of Future Passed*
- 1968: "Departure" from *In Search of the Lost Chord*
- 1968: "The Word" from *In Search of the Lost Chord*
- 1969: "In the Beginning" from *On the Threshold of a Dream*
- 1969: "The Dream" from *On the Threshold of a Dream*
- 1969: "Higher and Higher" from *To Our Children's Children's Children*
- 1969: "Beyond" from *To Our Children's Children's Children*
- 1970: "Don't You Feel Small" from *A Question of Balance*
- 1970: "The Balance" (with Ray Thomas) from *A Question of Balance*
- 1971: "Procession" (with Justin Hayward, John Lodge, Mike Pinder and Ray Thomas) from *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*
- 1971: "After You Came" from *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*
- 1972: "You and Me" (with Justin Hayward) from *Seventh Sojourn*
- 1978: "I'll Be Level With You" from *Octave*
- 1981: "22,000 Days" from *Long Distance Voyager*
- 1983: "Going Nowhere" from *The Present*
- 1986: "The Spirit" (with Patrick Moraz) from *The Other Side of Life*
- 1999: "Nothing Changes" from *Strange Times*

The Graeme Edge Band

- 1974: "We Like To Do it" - non-album single (later added to CD of *Kick Off Your Muddy Boots*)
- 1975: "Lost in Space" from *Kick Off Your Muddy Boots*
- 1975: "Have You Ever Wondered" from *Kick Off Your Muddy Boots*
- 1975: "The Tunnel" (with Adrian Gurvitz, & Paul Gurvitz) from *Kick Off Your Muddy Boots*
- 1975: "Somethin' We'd Like To Say" from *Kick Off Your Muddy Boots*
- 1977: "Paradise Ballroom" (with Adrian Gurvitz) from *Paradise Ballroom*
- 1977: "Human" (with Adrian Gurvitz) from *Paradise Ballroom*
- 1977: "Everybody Needs Somebody" (with Adrian Gurvitz) from *Paradise Ballroom*
- 1977: "Be My Eyes" (with Adrian Gurvitz) - "B" side to "Everybody Needs Somebody" single (later added to CD of *Paradise Ballroom*)
- 1977: "All Is Fair" (with Adrian Gurvitz) from *Paradise Ballroom*
- 1977: "Down, Down, Down" (with Adrian Gurvitz) from *Paradise Ballroom*
- 1977: "In the Light of the Light" (with Adrian Gurvitz) from *Paradise Ballroom*

- 1977: "Caroline" (with Adrian Gurvitz) from *Paradise Ballroom*

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4. Kreps, Daniel (11 November 2021). "Graeme Edge, Moody Blues' Drummer and Co-Founder, Dead at 80" (https://web.archive.org/web/20211111233204/https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/graeme-edge-moody-blues-drummer-dead-obit-1256700/). *Rolling Stone*. Archived from the original (https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/graeme-edge-moody-blues-drummer-dead-obit-1256700/) on 11 November 2021. Retrieved 13 November 2021.
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External links

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- Official web site (https://web.archive.org/web/20170911180941/http://graemeedge.com/) at the Wayback Machine (archived 11 September 2017)
- Graeme Edge (https://www.discogs.com/artist/Graeme+Edge) discography at Discogs
- Graeme Edge (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1132208/) at IMDb
- Portraits of Graeme Edge (https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/person.php?LinkID=mp130637) at the National Portrait Gallery, London

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